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THE RESUMPTION OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS

ANNCR:

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS--SALT TWO--WILL RESUME IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 28. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE: THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA TALKS IN ITSELF DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STAGNATION IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN OVERCOME. BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO FEEL THE URGENT NEED TO PRESS ON WITH THESE TALKS DESPITE OTHER SERIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN THEM. THERE ALSO HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT TIME IN BOTH CAPITALS TO COORDINATE THE RESPECTIVE NEGOTIATION POSITIONS WITHIN EACH GOVERNMENT.

WHAT IS NOT YET CLEAR IS WHETHER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WILL GO TO MOSCOW IN THE SECOND HALF OF JANUARY. THE TRIP WOULD PERMIT AN ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS NEW IMPETUS THROUGH AN AGREEMENT ON COMMON DIRECTIONS FOR THE TWO DELEGATIONS, AS HAS BEEN DONE SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST WHEN A DEADLOCK OCCURRED.

WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS PLAN FOR A MOSCOW TRIP, MISTER KISSINGER CAREFULLY DESCRIBED THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE WOULD UNDERTAKE IT. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT INSIST ON ITS LAST PROPOSAL, BECAUSE WITHOUT A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION THERE WOULD NOT BE A CHANCE OF A

SETTLEMENT; THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LATEST SOVIET OFFER. THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT A SERIOUS EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES WAS REQUIRED TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS.

THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO FIND A WAY IN WHICH A SALT TWO AGREEMENT CAN ENCOMPASS BOTH THE SOVIET BOMBER "BACKFIRE," WHICH IT REGARDS AS A STRATEGIC WEAPON, AND THE AMERICAN "CRUISE MISSILE," WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WANTS ACCOMMODATED UNDER THE OVERALL CEILING AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK. FURTHERMORE, THE UNITED STATES WANTS ITS UNILATERAL STATEMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF HEAVY MISSILES, ISSUED AT THE TIME OF SALT ONE AND NOT RESPECTED BY THE SOVIET UNION, INCORPORATED IN ANY NEW AGREEMENT ON OFFENSIVE MISSILES.

DIFFICULT AS THE SALT PROBLEMS ARE IN THEMSELVES, OTHER ISSUES HAVE DEVELOPED IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH COULD HAVE A BEARING ON A KISSINGER DECISION TO GO OR NOT TO GO TO MOSCOW. AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE SECRETARY CAREFULLY SPELLED OUT THE PROBLEM AS HE SEES IT. HE SAID THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDERS THE SOVIET ACTIONS IN ANGOLA INCOMPATIBLE WITH A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS, AND THAT THEY ARE CERTAIN TO AFFECT THE GENERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS UNLESS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION IS FOUND. AT THE SAME TIME, MISTER KISSINGER UNDERLINED, THE QUESTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS IS A MATTER OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY DISCARDED. WHETHER THE ANGOLA PROBLEM HAS PUT THE TRIP IN JEOPARDY, HE SAID, WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGED AS THE TIME OF THE TRIP APPROACHES.

IN RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON DETENTE AND THE OVERALL U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ANGOLA, THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT SALT, AND DETENTE IN GENERAL, IS IN THE COMMON INTEREST OF BOTH NATIONS AND AN INHERENT NECESSITY OF THE PRESENT PERIOD. "AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR," HE CONCLUDED, "IS NOT A FAVOR WE DO ANYBODY. AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR WITHOUT GIVING UP ANY INTERESTS IS THE PROBLEM THAT WE FACE TODAY."

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